

Types of English Passive Voice and Forms of Passivization at Headline News
Found in Columns in WWW.TIME.COM: A Typological Analysis

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Abstrak

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk (1) mengidentifikasi tipe- tipe pasif bahasa inggris (2) menjelaskan bentuk- bentuk proses pemasifan yang muncul dalam berita- berita utama pada setiap kolom yang terdapat pada www.time.com berdasarkan analisis tipologi. Data dari penelitian ini 113 kalimat pasif. Data dikumpulkan dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Temuan penelitian yaitu terdapat 6 tipe pasif, tipe personal pasif yang paling mendominasi diantara tipe pasif yang lain. Sedangkan bentuk pemasifan yang paling dominan adalah copular be+ past participle dari 24 bentuk cara pemasifan yakni 31,87 %. Serta 20 kalimat yang memiliki agen (backgrounding) dan 93 kalimat yang tidak memiliki agen (foregrounding), yakni sekitar 82, 30 % dari 113 data yang diperoleh. Hal ini membuktikan bahwa tulisan bahasa inggris didominasi sekitar 80 % oleh agentless (Dixon, 1991: 298).

Kata kunci: passivization, typological analysis, time.com, headline news, voice, foregrounding, backgrounding, oblique.\

A. Introduction

An English sentence is a part of speech to see the system of its formed structure clearly. It can be in written or spoken forms. Moreover, the sentence also consists of elements (subject, verb, and object) and each of them has a function semantically. It has different purposes to deliver the idea. In addition, to see the representative of relationship between subject and verb in meaning is called as voice.

In voice, it concerns in structural or grammatical but transitivity is for semantics. Furthermore, voice represents about the meaning between the subject

and object (Shibatani in Kulikoo and Vater, 1998:117-118). Actually voice is very challenging to be studied. The studies on voice phenomena have been becoming important and challenging topics in grammatical and semantic fields (Jufrizal, 2008). It is caused by the case that voice a phenomenon is linguistically seen as the grammatical- semantic interferences.

Generally, in expressing ideas are not only formed in active and passive, but also in middle voice. They are included in structural linguistics. The active is used to describe about the subject or initiator of action does action or activity. Those elements are used to arrange expressions which have meanings. In addition, the active voice is used to express the topic of its subject who does the action(s). However, the passive, especially in English, is not an automatic transformation of an active voice.

Moreover, the passive voice is very important in English. Formally, written English, has more than 80 percent of passive are agentless (Dixon, 1991:298). Furthermore, the object of an active sentence is the subject of the corresponding passive sentence. But, the passive voice is not a derivative of active voice (Wang Yuan- Yin: 2010). Based on this Dixon's theory dominantly gets agentless.

Then, English has its own constructions to express the topic (in passive) grammatically. As morphological, it has process of affixisation in the words but not all, such as in participle verbs *go- gone*, *take- taken*, *write- written*, etc. Rarely, those examples use suffix (-en).

Dixon (1991:54) states that a passive sentence in English is not an automatic transformation of an active one. In the passive derivation a direct object becomes subject of the derived transitive construction; *be* is inserted immediately before the head of the VP, and the following head verb is in *-en* form. Semantically, the passive forms have the same general meanings and time frames as verbs in the active voice (see in Werner, 2002:140). For example;

- *Fred stole the saab*
- *The saab was stolen by Fred*

The last sentence is passive, because it is marked by the preposition *by*. According to Dixon, preposition *by* can indicate the role which was essential to be passive verb.

Langacker (2002:137) who argues that the passive “*be*” is the predicate that combine with the participles derived by [PERF3] to form clausal head, such as *be opened, be eaten, be attacked, etc.* Then Langacker claims “*be*” passive should be combined with participle verb to form the passive. For example;

- *It will be opened*
- *John got hit by a car.*

Klemmer, et al (2000:353) argues that there is an indication to claim is passive. It is called passive infinitives which are uncommon term and not known to state the rules. However, it is able to identify the clauses underlying infinitive phrases because interpreting infinitives. For example;

- *I expect that the chocolate will be eaten before five.*
- *I expect the chocolates to be eaten before five.*

Based on the examples above (a) is a kind of passive verb and (b) is a kind of passive infinitive. So that, it has a marker to get passive infinitive, that is *be+en*. As Klemmer, et al states that the passive marker contains *be+en*, and in its active form, it has a subject and direct object.

The relation between a transitive verb and its object, and involves an intransitive construction with a subject, a copula like verb *be* or *get*, and a participial form of the verb are as types in process of passive or passivization (Dixon, 1991:298). Then he adds a passive clause may include an NP, introduced with *by* corresponding to the transitive subject. Below are the examples:

(Taken from *www.time.com*, Saturday, March 19, 2011):

- *Before the historic Japanese catastrophe changed the cable-news conversation, Libya was careering toward an American overreaction.*
- *The peripheral importance of Libya was bloated by several factors.*

Here, the first sentence is an active sentence, while the second sentence is passive. This is also introduced by using *by* to the transitive subject *several factors*.

In passivisation, the subject transfers from agent to patient/ theme. It is commonly happened in active become passive. Here are some constructions in building passive sentences or sometimes call as passivisation; (1) A direct object becomes subject of the intransitive construction. (2) Copular *be* and perfect/ participle verbs. (3) Auxiliary *have* and infinitive *to*. (4) Preposition *by*.

The position of agent can be stated through two constructions, foregrounding and back grounding. Those terms are indicator of agent in a passive sentence, systematically. Shopen (2007: 422-425) adds it needs to get a sense the

core function of passive. It means that to emphasize or to focus of the topic. Typically, foregrounding passives make the (-A) argument topic. Meanwhile, back grounding has the function to remove the (+A) argument from prominence in the clause.

Through this study, the writer classifies the language based on its grammatical or structure. That is known as typology. In addition, Smith (in Jufriзал, 2007:2) determines a language based on genetic, typology, and area. Hence, this research analyzes the passivization typologically to see the grammatical processes and strategies that generate passive construction.

Passivization has some particular terms in its constructions depend on their basic function or to emphasize the position of agent in a sentence, foregrounding and back grounding passive. These theories are adopted from a functional typology of voice proposed by Foley and Van Valin (see in Shopen, 2007: 422). Foregrounding passive is necessary to highlight the [-A] argument; typically, foregrounding passives make the [-A] argument topic. Meanwhile, the function of back grounding passive is in a sense the core function of passive: to remove the [+A] argument from prominence in the clause. It means that a passive sentence has no agent or agentless [-A] it is called as foregrounding, meanwhile if the sentence has agent called as back grounding. Those constructions will lead to analyze the process of passive sentence at headline news that found in columns in *www. time.com*.

This site is one of famous sites in the world. It has partnership with CNN which is located in New York City, United States of America. In addition, this site

was being established since March 1999. There are fifteen columns in this site, such as; home, politics, world news, arts, health, science, arts, travel, photos, business, tech land, video, specials, magazine, and newsfeed. Besides, in serving news, the site provides several main parts of news such as; headline, news body and lead. Here, the writer will focus on headline news.

In addition, headline news contents about the most important news in every edition. Sometimes it tells about politics, economy, life phenomenal and other topics. Hence, the writer tries to find passive sentences to be researched its process through typological analysis as the object in this research. Among kinds of news, this study just concerns to take data from headline news. Fortunately, this site is one of interesting media to be observed, because it is popular update news from all over the world and people can be easy to access this one.

Therefore through this study, it can help the writer and readers to know and improve the knowledge in linguistics, especially in typological analysis that may give information on passive cross linguistically. In addition, it is in order to know about the classification or group of a language based on its structure or grammar.

In short, the reasons why the writer is interested to analyze this research are; first, the study about passivization is not many done or rare. Then, the writer is interested to use the Dixon's theory that states English passive has dominantly agentless. The last but not at least, online media as source of data is for giving contribution in technological literate. Hence, the passivization is still less observed by others and an interesting topic to be developed.

Based on the explanation above, the purposes of this research are identifying the types of English passive voice which had been appeared in www.time.com and to describe the process of passive and identify the forms of passivization.

B. Research Method

This research is conducted by using descriptive method, one kind of qualitative research, because it describes and it is suitable with the purpose of the study. Relates to this, according to Michael Quinn Patton (2002:4), he states that qualitative studies vary by type, purpose, and quality. Meanwhile, he adds that there are three kinds of qualitative data: interviews, observations, and documents. So, based on the kinds of qualitative data above, this study will use document analysis.

Moreover, the analysis is used in written document because the source of the data is taken from *www.Time.com* which contains of reports and official publications, memoranda and correspondence, personal diaries, etc. Hence, these data are from the written text likes reports and official publications.

Moreover, the data which have found in *www.time.com* is analyzed to classify them into foregrounding and back grounding. The limited data were the news that was published on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 up to March 27, 2011. That time was one of important moments in the world happened such as; the earth quake, tsunami, and environment issues.

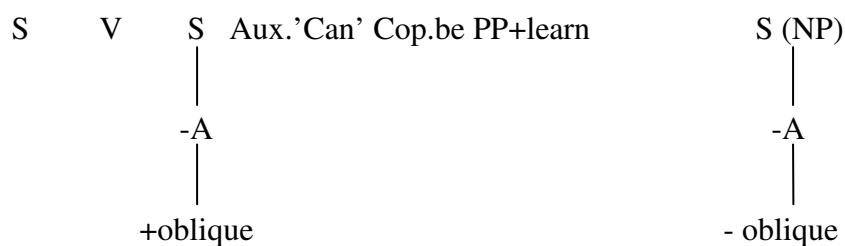
C. Discussion

This chapter presented the analysis of types of passivization at headline news found in columns in *www.time.com*: a typological analysis. The data of this research were taken from headline news that contained passive sentence to see the types of passive and passivization (process). The data were analyzed by the writer by using Fan Valin and Foley's theory and Dixon's theory. For example;

Obama said lessons can be learned from the unfolding nuclear disaster.

Based on the sentence above, the sentence was included in impersonal passive and *be* passive. Because of this sentence was in intransitive sentence (do not need object). Moreover, *be* is the predicate that combined with participle learn [ed] to form clausal *be learned*. Then, *From the unfolding nuclear disaster* was not agent, it was just as compliment in the sentence. Besides, this sentence can be known its process in passive then after get the process, the sentence can be seen the agent position here based on the construction below:

Obama said lessons can be learned from the unfolding nuclear disaster.



Based on the construction above, the sentence had no the agent or agentless because *lessons* and *from the unfolding nuclear disaster* were not actors in doing activity in the sentence. Therefore, this passive sentence belonged to foregrounding as typological analysis. Based on the datum above, there were three types of passivization existed Auxiliary ‘can’, copular ‘be’, and past participle.

Hence, in this research the writer found 113 data of passive sentences at headline news in columns in site *time.com*. It could be classified into six types of passive based on Comrie, Dixon, Saeed and Klemmer’s theory. The data were categorized into personal passive 47 sentences, impersonal passive 45 sentences, middle passive 7 sentences, passive infinitive 7 sentences, *be* passive 2 sentences and *get* passive 2 sentences. The occurrence of types of passive at headline news found in columns in *www.time.com* performed into this following table.

Table 1.0 (the occurrences of Types of Passive at headline news found in columns in *www.time.com*).

Types of Passive	Frequency	Percentage
Personal passive	51	45,13 %
Impersonal Passive	41	36,28 %
Middle Passive	10	8,85 %
Passive Infinitive	6	5,31 %
<i>Be</i> Passive	3	2,65 %
<i>Get</i> Passive	2	1,78 %
Total	113	100 %

Besides, the writer also analyze about the types of passivization or process of passive. It was analyzed by using Dixon, Abraham and Jufrizal's theory. Based on data of analysis in passive construction, the writer found various constructions or types in making passive sentences. In order to clear to see the types of passivization found at headline news in columns in *www.time.com* can be seen through following table:

Table 2.0 (the occurrences of Types of Passivization at headline news found in columns in *www. time.com*).

No.	Types of Passivization	Frequency (sentence/s)	Percentage
1.	Cop. be + PP	36	31,87 %
2.	Aux. Have + been + PP	11	9,74 %
3.	PP + prep by	14	12,39 %
4.	Cop. be + PP + prep. by	9	7,97 %
5.	Aux. Can + cop. be + PP	1	0,88 %
6.	Aux. Have + PP	1	0,88 %
7.	Cop. be + (not) + infinitive 'to'	1	0,88 %
8.	Cop. be + being + PP	2	1,77 %
9.	Cop. be + going +infinitive 'to' + cop. be + PP	2	1,77 %
10	Aux. Will + cop. be + PP	1	0,88 %

11.	Aux. Maybe + PP	1	0,88 %
12.	Aux. Have + been + (not) + PP + prep. by	3	2,66 %
13	Aux. Can + get + PP +inf. to	1	0,88 %
14.	Cop. be + PP + prep. for	3	2,66 %
15.	Cop. be + PP + prep. from	1	0,88 %
16.	Aux. May + aux. Have + been + PP	1	0,88 %
17.	Inf. to + inf. verb	1	0,88 %
18.	Infinitive 'to' + cop. be + PP	4	3,55 %
19.	Aux. Can + infinitive verb + being + PP + prep. by	1	0,88 %
20.	Infinitive verb + (past)	7	6,21 %
21.	Get +PP	1	0,88 %
22.	Cop. be + PP + infinitive 'to'	9	7,97 %
	TOTAL	113	100 %

Based on the table above, among 22 types of passivization in passive construction, the type cop. *be* + participle is the most popular used in passive sentence. The formula is to be an icon of passivization in English (Jufrizal). The data shows that many kinds of ways in making passive sentence. It can be used *auxiliary have, maybe, may, will* and *can*. Besides, prepositions which also appear are *from* and *for*. This is showing us to not focus in using preposition *by* because it depends on the sentence. Then, a formula infinitive verb (and can be formed in

past) is often used in middle passive. Moreover, the infinitive verb can be written in gerund (V+ ing) that has passive meaning semantically, for example *including*.

The last, the writer classifies the data to declare them into foregrounding (agentless) and backgrounding (agent). Therefore, based on the analysis data, the writer finds out 20 sentences backgrounding and 93 sentences foregrounding. It will be concluded by using the table below:

Agent position as typological analysis	Frequency (sentence/s)	Percentage
Foregrounding	93	82, 30 %
Backgrounding	20	17, 70 %
TOTAL	113	100 %

In short, the passive sentence is agentless dominantly. It is more than 86 percents. As Dixon states 80 percents of written English passive are agentless.

D. Conclusion and Suggestion

After analyzing the data, the writer found 113 data of headline news in columns in *www.time.com* which could be categorized into types of English passivization as a typological analysis based on Dixon's, Jufriзал's and Van Falin and Foley's. It was classified into 22 types of passivization.

Besides, the writer also found 6 types of passive in the data. They were personal passive 51 sentences, impersonal passive 41 sentences, middle passive 10 sentences, passive infinitive 6 sentences, *be* passive 3 sentences, and *get* passive 2 sentences. The last, the writer found agent(less) position in the sentence through typological analysis. They were backgrounding (has agent) 20 sentences and foregrounding (has no agent) 93 sentences.

In conclusion, English passivization has many various ways to make passive sentence. Then, dominantly English passive is agentless. Hence, through this research can help the reader understand about the formula or process in making passive or passivization.

Thus, the writer suggests other writers who want to do relevant study in order to can improve the data not only from headline news but also from other news from internet source. Besides, it is suggestion that the writers who are interested in analyzing the types of passivization can use another theory from others experts to develop a better study in passive voice.

Catatan: Artikel ini disusun berdasarkan skripsi penulis dengan pembimbing I Prof. Dr. Jufrizal, M. Hum dan pembimbing II Havid Ardi, S.Pd., M. Hum.

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